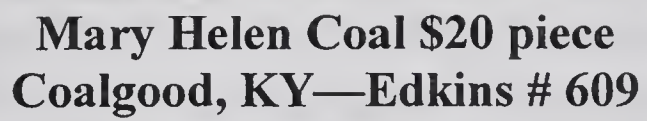


Script Talk

March 2006
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Issue # 137

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Scrip Talk
1818 Harper Rd
Beckley WV 25801



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National Scrip Collectors Association

The **National Scrip Collectors Association** was officially organized on October 21, 1972 in Fayetteville WV. The objectives and purposes of the organization are to promote the collection of coal company scrip and related tokens, to cultivate good relations between collectors of scrip tokens, and to encourage the study and research of the history of coal mining companies as it relates to the usage of scrip tokens.

In the late 1970's the scope of the **NCSA** was broadened to include tokens from other industries; including lumber, phosphate, hard rock, limestone, copper, gold & silver, brick & clay, cotton & textile, paper, iron & steel, agricultural, and others.

The first issue of *Scrip Talk* was published in 1965, and it continues today as the official newsletter for members of the **NSCA**. It exists not only as a source of information for its members, but as a forum where they can share items of interest. Please feel free to submit or suggest articles for future publication.



2006 NSCA Officers

Steve Cawood • President 344 Tennessee Ave Pineville KY 40977

John Podgursky • Vice-President 24 Hemlock Lane Ellysburg, PA 47112

James Singleton • Vice-President PO Box 41 Hughston, WV 25110

Corkey Snodgrass • Vice-President 208 Bethel Rd Beckley, WV 25801

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Join the NSCA!

NAME _____

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Receive six issues of Scrip Talk, including information on the club's semi-annual scrip shows.

Scrip Talk 1818 Harper Rd Beckley WV 25801 nsca@coalmemories.com

2006 *NSCA* Spring Scrip Show

Script collectors from across the country will be converging on Bluefield, WV, on April 28 & 29 for the annual **Spring Scrip Show** at the Holiday Inn conference room.

NSCA Vice-President Corkey Snodgress promises an exciting show this year, as scrip from two large private collections—including one described by Corkey as the third-largest scrip collection know to exist—will be available to collectors at the show. These large collections will be divided up individually and into sets, and include many rare and interesting pieces.

The meeting commences on Friday, the 28th, with a free meal for all club members at 6:00. Vendor tables with scrip and related mining memorabilia will be set up prior to the meal; with buying, selling, and trading to officially begin at 7:00. Club activity resumes Saturday, starting at 8:00 and continuing into the afternoon.

Contact the hotel at 304/325-6170 to make your reservation. Mention the NSCA to receive a club discount. Contact Corkey Snodgress at 304/253-5446 for further information, or if you'd like to reserve a table to display and sell at the show.

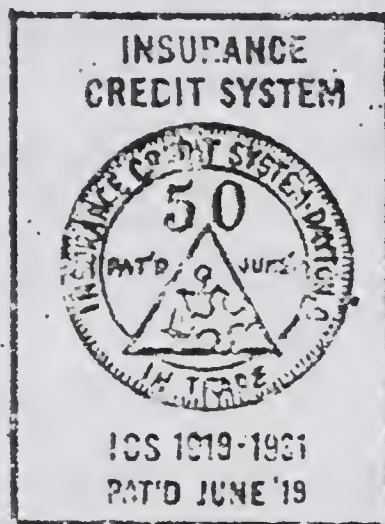
* Note the correction of show dates from our last issue. *

The Scrip-Ident Chart

The Dodrill Scrip-Ident Chart is a valuable tool to help estimate the age of scrip by identifying reverse dies and the companies that used them. To use, match the back side of the scrip in question with a graphic on the chart, below. A range of years for each design is listed.



QTS.



ICS



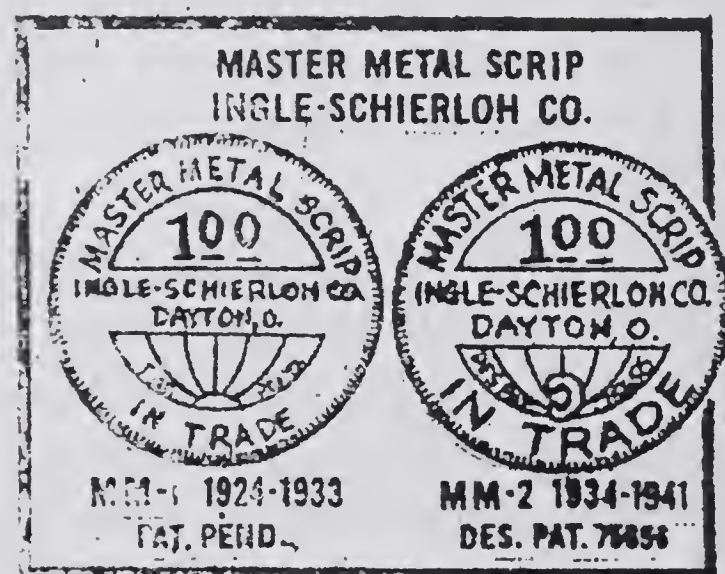
IS09

IS14



ISC1

ISC2



MM1

MM2



O1

O2.

O3

O4



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The Oldest Coal Company Scrip

By Donald K. Clifford

I have often heard that the oldest coal company scrip was the scrip issued by **Pioneer Coal Company** at Malden, West Virginia. Pioneer Coal Company was in business from the mid-1880's into the 20th century. A recent discovery that I made had led me to believe that this information is not correct.

Over ten years ago, a colleague sent me a letter asking for information about West Virginia Civil war tokens from Hartford City; a five cent and a ten cent token issued by Kelly's Store. His statement was that he didn't think the tokens were issued during the Civil War because he could find no information about Kelly's Store in any reference books from that time period. He asked me to check other years and see if perhaps these were from later period.

After checking all of my available Dun, Bradstreet and Polk Gazetteer listings from 1875 to the early 1900's I could not find any listing that shows that Kelly was in business during this time.

Recently, while visiting the state library, I saw a book on the History of Hartford City, West Virginia, written by Mildred Chapman Gibbs in 1975. She states that on January 1, 1853, Augustus J. Brown purchased 540 acres of land in what was to become later become Hartford City. This purchase included mineral rights to the coal and salt brine.

There were several companies stores established in town, including one operated by Mason County Mining and Manufacturing. The first manager-clerk of the company store was James W. Kelly. Kelly was very well educated and interested in politics. Gibbs states

that the company store accepted "script" that was issued by Mason County Mining and Manufacturing Company, which was later called Hartford City Coal and Salt Company.

Coal was discovered along the banks of the Ohio River and was easy to mine using slope digging. It was then shipped by barge down the Ohio to Cincinnati and other industrial cities. The coal was also used to produce salt, which was also shipped to Cincinnati and the meat packing cities.

The Hartford City Coal and Salt Company store began to operate in the late 1850's, with James Kelly as the first manager. The name of the store was the Hartford City Store.

The scrip issued is known in two denominations:

**In Merchandise / Kelly's / Store / Hartford / City / W. Va.
5 Brass, 19mm**

**In Merchandise / Kelly's / Store / Hartford / City / W. Va.
10 Nickel**

Since West Virginia became a state in 1863, the use of this scrip must have been shortly after the statehood, because James Kelly was the first manager. I cannot find any information on the length of this tenure as manager, but history states that he was married and had four children before he left. It also relates that he bought and sold coal lands and made a nice profit. He later became a delegate to the National Convention in 1872.

Hartford City, or Hartford as it is known today, was named after Hartford Connecticut, because the owners of the Mason County Mining and Manufacturing Company came from Connecticut. They later established mines at another location that was a few miles up river from Hartford, named New Haven after another Connecticut City.

I believe it is safe to say that Kelly's Store, Hartford City, West Virginia scrip is the earliest known example of coal company scrip in the state.

Special thanks to Donald Clifford for sharing this article with the NSCA.

N.S.C.A. FREE ADS FOR MEMBERS

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. **You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK.** All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. **SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343 or E-mail Steve@Ratliff.com {Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.}**

[illegible]

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WANTED: KY 409 BULAN TRACE FORK MINING CO. Send price and description to Charles Miller, 200W-900N, Wawaka, IN 46794 +

WANTED - WEST VIRGINIA SCRIP - New Kid on the block --- Send list of Edkins I.D. tokens you have for sale. Fine or Better grade only. Include price. bwcok@knology.net Billy Campbell, 125 Cambridge Trail, Madison, AL 35758 +

GLEN BURN LARGE COAL SCATTER TAG - one dollar and SASE. Leo Schiltz, 196 Crestview Lane, Dyer, IN 46311 +

VIRGINIA WANTED: COAL, LUMBER, AND MERCHANT. I'm interested in most anything from Virginia. Will buy or I may have something of interest to you. John Taylor, 2017 Granby Road, Kingsport, TN 37665 - phone 423-246-9126 +

PAYING \$200.00 FOR ANY DENOMINATION PAINT CREEK COLLIERIES, Hickory Camp, WV. Paying \$150.00 for G. C. Lewis, Mahan, WV Danny Clark, P.O. Box 13, Hugheston, WV 25110 e-mail danny8995@yahoo.com +

SALE OR TRADE: TWO DIFFERENT: INGERMANN / MILTON, IND. Trades for Indiana or best offer. Jack Smith, 5605 W. US Hwy. 52, New Palestine, Ind. 46163 e-mail jack-smithbuck@aol.com +

"RED" RIBBLE PANORAMIC COALFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK - This newly published 11" x 17" coffee table book boasts 400 large format black and white photos, taken from 1919 to 1957, of southern West Virginia miners and coal towns. A tremendous collection of rare historical images, compiled for the first time. Soft cover; 180 pages. \$49.95 + \$6 shipping. *Coal Memories*, 1818 Harper Road, Beckley, WV 25801 304-253-7242 www.coalmemories.com +

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TENNESSEE COAL, IRON AND RAILROAD CO. stock certificate, issued 1894, with triple vignette of train at station platform and miners in iron mine & coal mine, punch cancelled, \$42 postpaid. Al Zaika, P.O. Box 65, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0065 +